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**NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**New York State Police  
Interview of Gene Palmer**

**June 20, 2015**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 [Background noise]

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [phonetic]: All  
4 right, have a seat wherever you want. - - .

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]: Thank you. - - .

6 [Crosstalk]

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]: Spell your name?

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED].

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] How you feeling today?

11 MR. GENE PALMER: This is different for me.

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] It's different for  
13 everybody; a lot going on, right?

14 MR. PALMER: A lot going on.

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You hear a lot of things.

16 MR. PALMER: - - yeah.

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yeah, you hear things in the  
18 news, you hear things from friends, you hear  
19 things from us, and truth is usually somewhere  
20 right in the middle, right?

21 MR. PALMER: Yes.

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay, we just need to get  
23 some background information first, because I  
24 have not met you before, and I do appreciate you  
25 coming in.

1           MR. PALMER: There's been a lot--this is  
2 important, to come in.

3           ████████████████████ Well, it is, and I'm glad  
4 you realize that. You seem like an intelligent  
5 man. I can appreciate that. Because I usually  
6 don't get that right off the bat. I usually  
7 don't--people come in here and they don't seem  
8 to have--what would you say, ██████████ like a sense  
9 of urgency, okay? They don't know how important  
10 certain parts of their life are. What is  
11 important today, and it's extremely important,  
12 because we don't have really much time to waste,  
13 okay, is we need 100% cooperation, we need 100%  
14 truth in order for you to help yourself and help  
15 us, okay?

16          ████████████████████ And, I - - that [crosstalk].

17          ████████████████████ And, I'm sure--I was just  
18 going to say--can I call you ██████████?

19          ████████████████████ Yes.

20          ████████████████████ It's what ██████████ told you.

21          ████████████████████ I spoke to the other ██████████  
22 this morning at D.A. Wiley and I told him that  
23 he was willing to cooperate fully and answer any  
24 questions that you have.

25          ████████████████████ And, as I identified myself

1 before with that previous contact, I'm FBI  
2 agent out of FBI Albany, and as you know, it's a  
3 material--you're providing material, false  
4 statement to FBI, it's a felony. So, it's  
5 really important that you provide truthful  
6 information.

7 MR. PALMER: Yes.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Now, the only way, and I'm  
9 just--I don't like to quantify anybody. I don't  
10 like to put somebody in a category--can I call  
11 you Gene?

12 MR. PALMER: Yes, that's fine.

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Please call me [REDACTED],  
14 because [REDACTED] just doesn't work for anybody,  
15 it's a curse.

16 MR. PALMER: Are you from this area?

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Originally, but you know, I  
18 admit--I guess--I used to stay upstate, I guess  
19 it would be downstate, been in mid-state for the  
20 last 25 years. You need to relax, okay?

21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I will say, - - , he is very  
22 nervous.

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You know, I can see that.

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] It's because of the attention  
25 [crosstalk] he's getting.

1           [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You need to breathe, okay?

2           MR. PALMER: Yes.

3           [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We're not bad guys.

4           MR. PALMER: No, I know you're the good  
5 guys, you're the good guys.

6           [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Well, we're all good guys.  
7 Look what you do for a living. What you do for  
8 a living, what I do for a living, and what [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED] does for a living, three different aspects  
10 of the same job. Can we all agree on that?

11          MR. PALMER: Yes.

12          [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay, you know where Eastern  
13 Correctional Facility is? I'll tell you about  
14 myself. You know where Eastern [phonetic]  
15 Correctional Facility is?

16          MR. PALMER: I haven't been there, but--

17          [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] [REDACTED]  
18 [phonetic], Eastern - - . It's basically a  
19 Correctional Officer-[REDACTED] is a Correction  
20 Officer--it's Correction Officer land, and we  
21 got a little trooper - - there. And, when I'm  
22 new, I - - on the side of the road where two  
23 guys - - . We're on a shift change, three guys  
24 from an Eastern, and - - I'm still good friends  
25 with one, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] saved my ass. Saved my

1       ass. Because, here I am, I look like a body  
2       builder. I'm fighting for my life, and the next  
3       thing, I have three other peace Officers helping  
4       me out. So, maybe we can all help each other  
5       out.

6               MR. PALMER: I absolutely will.

7               ██████████ I say in reality, this is  
8       not a good situation. We can all agree on it,  
9       right? It's not a good situation. It's not  
10      good for you, it's not good for us, it's not  
11      good for the community. What is good is, - -  
12      situation right here, okay? Nobody's been  
13      killed, okay, I think that's our #1 thing.  
14      Nobody's been taken, as far as we know. And,  
15      there's no damage at this point that can't be  
16      corrected, okay? That being said, and I tell  
17      you this, I need you to relax, okay?

18              MR. PALMER: I'm trying to.

19              ██████████ Don't try. Trust us and  
20      relax. If you have any questions, you have your  
21      attorney here.

22              MR. PALMER: I trust you.

23              ██████████ We chatted before.

24              MR. PALMER: Yes, we have.

25              ██████████ And, like I said to you, we need

1 your expertise before someone gets hurt, and  
2 that's what we're here for. And, I know you're  
3 coming to do that for us, so we appreciate that.

4 MR. PALMER: You're welcome, you're welcome.

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Some of the information I'm  
6 going to ask is going to be redundant, it's  
7 going to be redundant, it's going to be repetitive.

8 MR. PALMER: I understand.

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Bear with me, okay? I  
10 appreciate it, because, again, I like - - , I  
11 don't like to get stuff said - - dirty, okay?  
12 If you need a break at any time, ask for a  
13 break. You're here on your own free will. If  
14 you need a break, just please let us know. Just  
15 because of where we are, we're just going to  
16 escort you out, and back in, okay? Because  
17 there's a lot of people here, all right? How  
18 long have you worked as a Corrections Officer?

19 MR. PALMER: August, 8/24/87, yes, 8/24/87,  
20 that's when I came in the Department, so I'll  
21 have 28 years shortly, here.

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Where'd you first work at?

23 MR. PALMER: My first job?

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Mm-hmm.

25 MR. PALMER: Well, now that's going to be the

1 Elks Club.

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, I'm sorry, where did you  
3 first in Corrections, on a Corrections basis?

4 MR. PALMER: I went to Sing-Sing first for  
5 seven days, and then I went to Green Haven for  
6 one year, and then I came up to Clinton, up to  
7 Clinton afterwards.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, you really spent 27 years in  
9 Clinton?

10 MR. PALMER: Yes, that would be the math.

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Are you from here?

12 MR. PALMER: Am I from here?

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Mm-hmm.

14 MR. PALMER: Well, we moved up here in '76  
15 from New York City, - - .

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - - yeah? - - Brooklyn?

17 MR. PALMER: Yeah, because, and that was  
18 interesting, because I came up from Texas, and  
19 Italians lived on this side of the street, well  
20 the Mafia lived on this side of the street, and  
21 then - - lived on this side of the street, and  
22 Jewish--

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] Yeah, I know  
24 exactly, I grew up in [crosstalk].

25 MR. PALMER: - - neighborhood, though. That



1 was back in '72, '73, '74-ish, I believe, or  
2 '75, yeah, in that timeframe, but I'm pretty  
3 sure we came up in '76.

4 [REDACTED]: Now, when you say 'we,'  
5 who's we?

6 MR. PALMER: That would be [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]: Are they still there?

9 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]: [Interposing] And how long  
13 ago was that? How long ago was that?

14 MR. PALMER: That was--

15 [REDACTED]: [Interposing] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17 MR. PALMER: Yeah, that would be [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I believe.

19 [REDACTED]: You still remember the date,  
20 yeah. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - - . You never get  
21 enough time with them.

22 MR. PALMER: Yeah, no.

23 [REDACTED]: All right, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

25 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] :

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He

23 researched the area for historical, or you know,  
24 what would be a pleasant area, but [REDACTED]

[illegible]

■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

3 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay, nice.

5 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Good, good. And, you said

7 you [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED]

8 MR. PALMER: Yes, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yeah, - - you're a good man

1 for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3 MR. PALMER: No.

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay, and that's it, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11 MR. PALMER: Yeah, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

18 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

24 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

1 MR. PALMER: Yes.

2 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

6 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED] Extremely--extremely, I can  
10 say from experience, extremely important to  
11 have--it's very important, that dynamic.

12 [REDACTED] I didn't even know he did  
13 that.

14 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

17 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] And, it was  
20 mentioned to me, okay, on a prior discussion I  
21 had with you [crosstalk], it was very  
22 impressive. Like I said, we're all on the same  
23 page right here. Different parts of the page,  
24 but we're all on the same page.

25 MR. PALMER: Guilt comes with this because I

1 [REDACTED]  
2 that's called greed, possibly, you know? When  
3 you're in the battlefield and your fellow  
4 soldier gets shot and you're supposed to carry  
5 them out of the battlefield, and I didn't do  
6 that.

7 [REDACTED] Again, we just met, I don't  
8 want disagree, but I don't--I call it the way I  
9 see it, and I wouldn't be too--I'm not always  
10 correct, if you don't me saying, I'm going to  
11 say it anyway. No, you didn't. You're there.

12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED] You're  
15 still on the battlefield, all right?

16 MR. PALMER: I guess you can look it that  
17 way.

18 [REDACTED] Yeah, you didn't [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED] Very important that that  
21 dynamic doesn't change, if you don't mind me  
22 saying, because - - world much more people,  
23 don't have hope, that's when they go into  
24 despair, Gene.

25 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]  
 ■ [REDACTED]  
 ■ [REDACTED]  
 ■ [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]: No, no. Is that how you and  
 7 I picture it being? Nobody pictures it - - like  
 8 that, right? Nobody pictures ending up like  
 9 that.

10 MR. PALMER: No.

11 [REDACTED]: And, you're stopping that  
 12 from happening, and again, it wasn't--was it our  
 13 main - - , but again, we don't want to change  
 14 dynamics in life. We're not here to make life  
 15 worse for anybody else, okay? I would like  
 16 nothing to do, and [REDACTED] would like nothing to do,  
 17 to let you have that same dynamic that you have  
 18 with [REDACTED]  
 19 okay? So, let's help make things right, today.

20 MR. PALMER: Yes, I will.

21 [REDACTED]: All right.

22 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]?

23 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED].

24 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]





1 - .

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, that's where you met  
3 Mary, at work?

4 MR. PALMER: Yes, yeah.

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And, you've been with her  
6 ever since?

7 MR. PALMER: Yes, we've been together--  
8 August it'll be eight years that we've been  
9 living together.

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

12 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm sorry?

14 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'll need a calculator for that.

21 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And, what's the address over  
24 there in the city?

25 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

■            ■            Okay, ■            ■            ■            ■            ■

■            ■            ■            ■

3            MR. PALMER:            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■

■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■

■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■

6            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■

7            MR. PALMER:            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■

■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■

■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■

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■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■            ■

14            MR. PALMER:    I know.

15            ■            ■            Look, you can't change the

16            past, - - perfect lives. You can just change

17            the future, and that's every day. I tell my

18            children that, I look in the mirror, because you

19            know how parents are, we're hypocritical, and I

20            tell myself, I just told my children that, I'm

21            going to try to live by the same principle.

22            We're not perfect. We're not perfect at all.

23            If we were, we wouldn't be here. We're striving

24            towards that now. So, each day hopefully we

25            become a little better, some days we take steps

1 back, which just means we have to pick up the  
2 pace to get back where we were, so we can get  
3 past things that - - . A situation like you  
4 have [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a situation like that, that's  
7 something that I don't know if--obviously it's  
8 not a situation that's critical that you move  
9 on, but it's growing experience. Even though  
10 it's difficult, 9 out of 10 guys don't have the  
11 fortitude, don't have the strength that you have  
12 to do that. Again, I know that personally.  
13 And, I'll tell you, in the long run, even for a  
14 thing like today, okay, it'll make you a  
15 stronger person, okay? Maybe that's one reason  
16 you're here, today. Because of subconscious,  
17 because of integrity, okay, because we are all  
18 law enforcement. When it comes down to it, we  
19 all are brother, all right?

20 MR. PALMER: Yes.

21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] How long have you been on A  
22 Block?

23 MR. PALMER: I think I've had this bid for  
24 eight years, now.

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Eight years.

1 MR. PALMER: Yes, yes.

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And, can you just explain  
3 the situation of A Block to me, or of Clinton?  
4 Again, I've been in Eastern, I've been Wallkill,  
5 I've been in Sing-Sing. - - help you for the  
6 seven days, that's a rough place. But, can you-  
7 -the dynamic as far as who you answer to and  
8 what the daily operation is?

9 MR. PALMER: A Block is Honor Block.  
10 There's six galleries, and then you'll have  
11 First Officer and a Second Officer, which are  
12 standard.

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Now, these six galleries,  
14 how are they designated?

15 MR. PALMER: It goes, 1, 4, 2, 5, 3, 6, so  
16 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And, that's bottom to top,  
18 correct?

19 MR. PALMER: Yes. The flats are called--the  
20 flats are 1 and 4, that's terminology they use,  
21 also. The flat bottom, the bottom floor, where  
22 they call that the flats for whatever reason,  
23 but that's what that is called.

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Now, I'm actually - - ,  
25 okay? And you are, right?

1           [REDACTED] Yes.

2           [REDACTED] - - do you think you can do  
3 me favor?

4           MR. PALMER: Sure.

5           [REDACTED] It'll be an actual break for  
6 you, because I'm sure you know this. Can you  
7 just draw an - - ?

8           MR. PALMER: Draw?

9           [REDACTED] The A Block. Would that be  
10 okay?

11          [REDACTED] Oh yeah, no, that's fine.

12          MR. PALMER: Okay, - - .

13          [REDACTED] If you want to, if you don't  
14 want to, that's fine.

15          MR. PALMER: When you walk in the main door,  
16 the office, the Main Office, is right here.

17          [REDACTED] The Main Office?

18          MR. PALMER: Yeah, and then your--

19          [REDACTED] [Interposing] Just put a - -  
20 right there if you don't mind, appreciate it.

21          MR. PALMER: And then, it basically goes all  
22 the way down like that, and then you're going to  
23 also have an office over here. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and then your

1 stairway. There's two parts of the stairway,  
2 actually, where you can come up this way or you  
3 can come up that way, and then there'll be a--  
4 and then you're going to have a catwalk, and the  
5 catwalk goes all the way to this door, here.  
6 Now, you gates here, and a gate here, and you  
7 got, well, actually, the office would be further  
8 back, but setting down there's a gate here and  
9 there's a gate here, and then all your cells are  
10 - - like that, pretty much.

11           ████████████████████ Okay, and so, it's basically  
12       straight up and down over here?

13 MR. PALMER: It's just stacked up.

14           [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   You have the catwalk in  
15           between, and you have the cells, right?

16 MR. PALMER: Yeah.

17           ████████████████████ And, that's for each floor,  
18       except the flats are just on the floor.

19 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[illegible]

12           [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   That's a little bit of a safety  
13   concern.

14 MR. PALMER: Well it is, it's a flaw, a  
15 technical flaw, but that was the way it was  
16 designed back then. The new blocks, other  
17 blocks that are new are built differently.

1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED] Well, again, you mentioned  
6 it's a flawed system. You've been working there  
7 for eight years.

8 MR. PALMER: Yes.

9 [REDACTED] Have you been in that block?

10 MR. PALMER: Yes.

11 [REDACTED] Eight years in that block?

12 MR. PALMER: Yes.

13 [REDACTED] So, you are that block. You  
14 control that block.

15 MR. PALMER: Well--

16 [REDACTED] [Interposing] Have you  
17 mentioned these flaws to your bosses?

18 MR. PALMER: Oh, they know--they all--I  
19 don't actually run the block, technically, in a  
20 legal aspect--

21 [REDACTED] [Interposing] I didn't say  
22 that, did I?

23 MR. PALMER: No, but you [crosstalk] when  
24 you say run the block, though, that is  
25 unofficially. I knew what was going on, I knew



1 the current mix, and I spoke with numerous  
2 convicts on the block on a daily basis. Not  
3 daily, but you know, every day I would have  
4 conversation with a lot of the inmates, whether  
5 they would have problems and they would come to  
6 me, and the reason why they--because, some of  
7 the Officers, their attitudes are get away from  
8 me, get away from me. If you play that card,  
9 well then, you don't see anything coming when  
10 things are going back, when tension's building  
11 up in the block. So, I was approachable. I  
12 made it a point to stay approachable and listen  
13 to what the men said, and I know that made me--  
14 they may have taken the baby and put it in the  
15 microwave, well, that's sad, but said and done,  
16 like I said to you, a lion tamer [crosstalk].  
17 I'm a lion tamer in a cage with six lions, and I  
18 got to get them to jump through the hoops. If  
19 you judge them by their crime, or something--

20 [REDACTED] [Interposing] Well, you  
21 don't judge them. You and I both know you don't  
22 judge.

23 MR. PALMER: No, they are--don't talk to  
24 them guys, well hell, you know, they're giving  
25 me heads up here and there when there's tension

1 in the block. The men--I always addressed  
2 them as men or convicts, I didn't really ever,  
3 them inmates, I always addressed them as men. I  
4 always felt that was--that gave them a little  
5 bit of respect.

6 [REDACTED] Sure, dignity.

7 MR. PALMER: In the heat of the moment,  
8 their situation on the street, but that's  
9 secondary. I got to make them jump through that  
10 hoop and not get hurt. So, they'd always come  
11 to me. Not always, but I was one of the people  
12 they would come to, Officers, and say hey, this  
13 guy's giving me a problem, or in my packages, I  
14 can't ahold of my wife, or however, I need to  
15 speak to my counselor. So, when my job as an  
16 escort Officer, I can go pretty much anywhere I  
17 wanted to because of the shop, like the bit  
18 shops, like the first man, he's got to stay here  
19 all the time, so I'm mobile, so I can go see  
20 their counselor and say, hey, this is - - , what  
21 can we do about this?

22 [REDACTED] Yeah, can you spend some time on  
23 that? Because, I'm a little confused on your  
24 role--

25 BP: [Interposing] Escort.

1           ■■■■ ■■■■ Because you're an escort, and  
2 then you do spend some time on the A Block.

3           MR. PALMER: Well, how that works is, Monday  
4 through Friday they go to work at the Tailor  
5 Shops and I stay with the Tailor Shops, and so  
6 if there's a problem or if somebody, like if  
7 there's a call-out that they missed--because, at  
8 9:00 the call-outs are--if you have a medical  
9 call-out, or you had to go see your counselor.

10         ■■■■ ■■■■ Maybe you could do it this way,  
11 why don't you just start like what would happen  
12 Monday morning. Why don't you take us through  
13 the week?

14         MR. PALMER: Monday morning we'd get up and  
15 crack them out. You know, you make your round,  
16 but mandatory chow, so you didn't have to take a  
17 chow list or nothing in this case, because they  
18 were all workers on 3 and 6. And, I would drop  
19 3 company and back to 5. I wouldn't drop back  
20 of 5, that was downstairs, but I would drop 3  
21 company first, in the order that we had run to  
22 chow, and those guys all come up the gallery,  
23 and they'd go downstairs, you make your round,  
24 fire round is what it's called, to make sure  
25 everybody had left. And then, I'd tell the 6

1 company, they'd call on the PA system, 6 on  
2 the chow, and then I'd crack those guys out.  
3 Now, real quick here, 3 company, when you drop 3  
4 company, they'd go in the hallway first, and  
5 then that Officer was already down there and he  
6 would take them to chow. Then, I'd come over to  
7 6 company and I'd let those guys out, and then I  
8 would go with them to chow. And, we'd go to the  
9 east mess hall, and after we get done with east  
10 mess hall, then we'd come back through B Block  
11 quarter. We'd come back through B Block  
12 quarter. Now, they don't go through the metal  
13 detector when they're coming across to the  
14 shops.

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Let me hold you right there,  
16 because you mentioned earlier there was a flaw.  
17 You used the term flaw.

18 MR. PALMER: Yes.

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Up until this point, right, when  
20 you're moving people back and forth to chow,  
21 what--in your view, what are the flaws in that  
22 system, if there are any?

23 MR. PALMER: Well see, when you're going  
24 from the block to chow you wouldn't--you  
25 wouldn't really have--well, that's not true,

1       either, because the garbage cans are out  
2       there, but still, there's Officers in the  
3       hallway at that point. So, they'd line up,  
4       they'd go to chow, and then once they go to  
5       chow, from east mess hall we'd come back through  
6       B Block quarter, and there's a metal detector  
7       there, but you wouldn't run them through the  
8       metal detector, you just run them past because  
9       of the timeframe involved here.

10       ██████████ So, that's a flaw in the system.  
11       Technically, you're expected to run them through  
12       the metal detector.

13       MR. PALMER: You would want to, because now  
14       you've gone to the mess hall. Now see, once you  
15       go to that mess hall, now you got to cross that  
16       serving line, now you've got all the  
17       convicts...so, now I'm going to pass to you, and  
18       now you can shoot over to the shops and  
19       transport whatever. Most likely it would be  
20       drugs. You wouldn't--but then again, that's not  
21       true, either. You could bring weapons in. The  
22       mess hall, workers had weapons, - - over the  
23       line, and you could run it right over, and  
24       you're not going to be checked.

25       ██████████ So, that's on the way to the

1 shop?

2 MR. PALMER: Now, they go over to the shops  
3 and they disperse. Now, we would go out and  
4 stand in the walkway. It'd take about 15, 20  
5 minutes, and you would have every shop, and  
6 there was about eight shops, and it varies from  
7 30 guys to make 42, my numbers might not be  
8 accurate, but each shop had different numbers of  
9 inmates in it. They'd walk across, and they'd  
10 mingle and stuff, and we'd just stand on the  
11 metal grate, there's this metal steam grate that  
12 we'd stand on in the winter time because of the  
13 heat that came off it, and you'd just stand  
14 there and watch everybody go across. They'd  
15 have their cigarettes, and stuff. Some of the  
16 Officers would bitch about it because when they  
17 get into Industry, there's--you have a - -  
18 platform, Light, Heat & Power, a loading dock.

19 [REDACTED] And, there's Tailor 4, - - .

20 MR. PALMER: And, these are your loading  
21 platforms, the door entrances, basically  
22 [crosstalk], and a lot of times--not a lot of  
23 times--every time you'd have your convicts, when  
24 they'd come over, they'd mingle here--at all of  
25 the door entrances is where they would mingle.

1 Not mingle, but they'd have their cigarettes.  
2 Some of the Officers would complain, you know,  
3 get in here, get in here. Well, you know what?  
4 You're letting them have their smoke. It calms  
5 them down. If I got to get punched in the nose,  
6 I want it to be for a good reason, not because  
7 I'm letting a kid smoke. Because, a lot of  
8 people smoke at the jail, and I know that a lot  
9 of people don't have a cigarette, they bug out.  
10 Well, you know, they get--

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] Absolutely.

12 MR. PALMER: So I always was respectful in  
13 letting them take their cigarette. A lot of  
14 people bitched about it, but I was the one, or  
15 we were, the escorts, we're the ones that got to  
16 get these guys if they act up or get ornery, so,  
17 hey, smoke a cigarette. Here, have two, smoke  
18 'em. You're calm and I'm calm, and everybody  
19 goes home, and nobody gets hurt.

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] So, coming from chow, though--  
21 let's back up--coming from chow there's weapons  
22 [crosstalk] options, other options. What other  
23 options besides weapons and drugs?

24 MR. PALMER: Well, I mean--

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] I want to

1 specifically ask you about electronics. What  
2 about electronics?

3 MR. PALMER: That would be--

4 [REDACTED] [Interposing] Can I just--  
5 he's asking if you know of anything  
6 specifically, not hypothetically.

7 MR. PALMER: Oh, no, nothing specifically,

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] But, anything specific where you  
11 caught someone doing that, you would report it,  
12 whether it was drugs--

13 MR. PALMER: [Interposing] Yes.

14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And, how many incidents would  
15 you report based on a year, would you say?

16 MR. PALMER: When they came from chow to the  
17 shops there was never--I'd probably say I never  
18 wrote a misbehavior [crosstalk].

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay, what about other Officers,  
20 though?

21 MR. PALMER: No, no, because they're not  
22 being frisked.

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay, but you're just saying  
24 that's a flaw in the system, or a potential  
25 flaw?



1           MR. PALMER: Yeah, that comes back to  
2 money.

3           [REDACTED] Sure, I understand.

4           [REDACTED] When you come from chow,  
5 okay, and you go around the metal detectors, how  
6 many people are escorted?

7           MR. PALMER: Well--

8           [REDACTED] [Interposing] How many  
9 people were you responsible for right there, let  
10 me put it that way. [Crosstalk] But, you have a  
11 partner with you.

12          MR. PALMER: Yes, but he ran 3 company, and  
13 when 3 company went across he would follow them  
14 out.

15          [REDACTED] Who's he?

16          MR. PALMER: [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] would be the number of  
17 the--the radio number of the other escort  
18 Officer. And, I would be [REDACTED]. Now, I had 6  
19 companies, so when I had my men in the mess  
20 hall, and then when they got done eating, I  
21 would follow my group back out. You just walk  
22 behind them and they mingle and walk right over.

23          [REDACTED] Okay, and they have a  
24 situation that arises to a level of concern,  
25 because again, when is the most secure time?

1 When they're put to bed at the end of the  
2 night, because you guys know what's in the  
3 cells, you know--okay, even coming out, that's  
4 why they're not searched coming out, right,  
5 that's what you told us. You know for the most  
6 part that's the safest point to the day. Once  
7 they're in an area where they can co-mingle, how  
8 they can get passed around, that could be  
9 difficult [crosstalk].

10 MR. PALMER: I wouldn't say it would be the  
11 safest part of the day.

12 [REDACTED] No? Well, going home's  
13 probably the safest part of your day.

14 MR. PALMER: Usually the way I'd judge  
15 things was that if we were going to have a  
16 problem it would take place in the morning, and  
17 most of the time it did. If there was any  
18 fights that took place it would take place--  
19 because, I knew once we hit noontime and most if  
20 there was going to be a fight, which there  
21 wasn't a lot of those, but we were good to go  
22 until the evening yard, pretty much, is how the  
23 rhythm of the job worked. Because, the way I--  
24 why I say that is because we're locked next door  
25 to each other, we're talking through the whole

1 night, - - , the first minute the gates come  
2 out, I'm going to hit you, punch you out. Well,  
3 if that doesn't take place, then early in the  
4 morning you can pretty much gather that there's  
5 not going to be a problem as the day goes  
6 through until the evening hours, because in the  
7 evening hours, then you have a shift change.  
8 Well, now that you have the shift change you  
9 have the younger Officers that come on, and then  
10 you got the yard, and they go to the yard, and  
11 it gets dark out, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]: [Interposing] Was there a  
16 reason for that? Cameras, or lack there of?

17 MR. PALMER: Well we have five wall towers  
18 out there, but [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20 and, on top of that, at 8:00 you do the go back  
21 from the yard. Well, you would take certain  
22 Officers, a group of Officers out of the yard  
23 and they'd run those inmates back, and that left  
24 fewer Officers in the yard, and they knew the  
25 timeframe, so that's when they would stab each

1 other, or fight, or whatever they--just being-  
2 -mischief would take place, if you want to use  
3 that word to describe it, because of lack of  
4 staffing.

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] But A Block, for the most  
6 part, was good, right, because it's an Honor  
7 Block?

8 MR. PALMER: It's not--

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] For the most  
10 part.

11 MR. PALMER: It's not technically called  
12 Honor Block, yeah, but still though. The  
13 individuals in there--we have use a bell curve,  
14 here, because you got to fill those cells, so  
15 you've got to take the best of the bad guys and  
16 put them in there, and there's a directive that  
17 states on their requirements to enter the block.  
18 No misbehavior for nine months. But, it also  
19 does state that you won't have a history of  
20 fighting, weapons, drugs, or any other--but,  
21 those would be the three things, drugs, fighting  
22 and weapons. If you have a history of that,  
23 which is not defined in the directive when they  
24 history, they mean more than two times, it's up  
25 to interpretation, is the legal loophole to get

1 around. But, anyway--

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] How long were  
3 these guys usually in A Block for? How long are  
4 your relationships with these guys?

5 MR. PALMER: - - .

6 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] On average, do you have  
7 somebody six months, they're getting ready to go  
8 out, they did their bid, or is it usually if  
9 they're long-termers?

10 MR. PALMER: Most of them are long-termers.

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I figured that, because--

12 MR. PALMER: [Interposing] Now, you'd have  
13 guys that would voted out, which is a slang word  
14 for transferred. They'd get transferred to  
15 different channels. And, that would happen a  
16 couple times a month, and then you'd have a few  
17 guys that would get locked up a couple times a  
18 month, and once you got a misbehavior report,  
19 technically if you are locked up two weeks, if  
20 you were locked up for two weeks then you lost  
21 Honor Block and you had to leave. And, if you  
22 lost your job--if a guy got fired or something,  
23 but he didn't lose Honor Block, if he only got  
24 like seven days of - - , it was common for up  
25 front, - - as well, we'll work with them to get

1       this guy another job, and we'll keep in A  
2       Block. Because, the thing about A Block is that  
3       most of these guys, pretty much 99% of them,  
4       wouldn't give you no trouble. So, if you're  
5       working lower F Block then they're screaming at  
6       you all day. So, A Block was a good block for  
7       everybody to go to, for employees too, because  
8       none of the inmates really ran their mouths to  
9       you because of the benefits or the perks that  
10      were given to them in that block. So, when you  
11      a convict that you had--that man lost his job  
12      due to whatever, you would go to the Program  
13      Committee and say, hey, this is what happened,  
14      and can we keep him in the block, and then they  
15      would make those arrangements for you.

16                ■■■■■■■■■■ So, you got A Block. A  
17      Block is Honor Block, so obviously people wanted  
18      your job, okay? They had faith that you could  
19      get the job done and are happy, at least to some  
20      extent, at the job you're doing. Because,  
21      that's the way--his jobs works my job, okay?  
22      So, whatever you're doing, whatever dynamic you  
23      developed with these guys in here, it's working.  
24      Can we all agree on that?

25               MR. PALMER: Yes.

1           [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   It's worked.

2           MR. PALMER:   It works.

3           [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   You make suggestions over  
4   those eight years of different things--  
5   improvements that need to be made?  They give  
6   you, what they give me, what they give [REDACTED]  
7   sorry, it's not in the budget, good luck.  We  
8   could put anybody there if we had those  
9   improvements.  We have you there for a reason,  
10   make it work.  Is that in short--I hate to  
11   surmise stuff, but is that basically what you  
12   were working under?

13          MR. PALMER:   I guess maybe that could be--

14          [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   [Interposing] If I'm  
15   incorrect, let me know.  I just kind of--that's  
16   what I'm surmising from what you're telling me,  
17   is A Block is a preferable block; A Block's the  
18   block to be, for the prisoners and for the  
19   Corrections Officers.

20          MR. PALMER:   Yes, and--

21          [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   [Interposing] So, you were  
22   there for a reason.

23          MR. PALMER:   Yes, and lower H Block was that  
24   way, too.  You go into work down there and it's  
25   nice and calm.  It's like if you get into E

1 Block, or if you work in the box, and you work  
2 with those guys that are screaming all the time  
3 and they're on their gate.

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Are you a senior guy in A  
5 Block? As far as...

6 MR. PALMER: I guess I would be, now that I--  
7 -

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] Okay, so  
9 you're the guy that basically everybody looks  
10 to, to that extent, within the block. Now, as  
11 far as these dynamics in the block, okay, as far  
12 as your relationships in the block,  
13 specifically, okay, Matt--

14 MR. PALMER: [Interposing] Yes.

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] --and Sweat.

16 MR. PALMER: Yes.

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I would like to get into  
18 that, okay?

19 MR. PALMER: Okay, now here's what happened.

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Hey, can I just interrupt just  
21 so I get a better understanding before we start  
22 that next topic, when we go from--you're going  
23 to go from chow the shops, right? You drop off  
24 the convicts, right?

25 MR. PALMER: Yes.



1           ██████████ Is this accurate? I'm going  
2 to generalize that.

3           MR. PALMER: Yes.

4           ██████████ And then, you don't stay there,  
5 right? There's some other--there's another  
6 Corrections Officer in the shop?

7           MR. PALMER: Well, yes, because each shop  
8 there's--maybe up to 10--but, technically there  
9 was eight shops that were running, and they  
10 would all go to their shops, and then you would  
11 have a civilian, which was mostly a female, but  
12 that's secondary.

13          ██████████ But, where do you go during this  
14 time period?

15          MR. PALMER: Oh, after that I just patrol.

16          ██████████ Then you patrol.

17          MR. PALMER: Yes, I'd make rounds through  
18 all the shops, and stop through every shop and  
19 say--I'll talk to the Officer, and I'll talk to  
20 the female, see if you need anything, and a lot  
21 of times that would, just for humor, you know -  
22 - and cigarettes, just laughs, but they would  
23 tell me if they had anybody that they thought  
24 was acting up, or they thought they may have  
25 trouble with.

1           ████████████████████ And then, generally, you bring  
2 them back to chow, back to the shops, for lunch?

3           MR. PALMER: Well, well no, because now it  
4 changes. For noon chow, I would go to A Block  
5 steps. Now, here's the other breach in  
6 security, but anyway, you got A Block, B Block,  
7 and C Block doorways. So, when they come out of  
8 them shops, the Light, Heat & Power go to chow,  
9 Tailor 5, Tailor 8, okay. I would stay down  
10 here, ██████████ would be at this end, I would be at  
11 this end, and the B Block would be here. Then  
12 they would--there would be 6, 7, and 8, and  
13 stock room. Stock room and 6, 7, and 8. So, I  
14 had technically--well, not technically--I had  
15 three groups that would come through mine. And,  
16 as each group would come through you would stand  
17 at the stairs and you would count. You would  
18 take a head count, and then as they'd go through  
19 the door then you would tell the Officer that  
20 you got 40, and he would concur.

21           ████████████████████ Okay, hold on, let me interrupt  
22 you, because I interrupted - - but wanted to ask  
23 you some questions. So, I'm just talking  
24 general, I want to go back to, specifically,  
25 about this, but then you eventually returned the

1 inmates back to A Block.

2 MR. PALMER: See, noon chow they'd go to eat  
3 and then they'd come through that A Block door.  
4 Now, they don't go--the only metal detector we  
5 got is in B Block; C and A don't have a metal  
6 detector, so now they've block the shop--here's  
7 the thing, here's another thing.

8 [REDACTED] Yeah. Sorry, I don't mean to--  
9 I'm just trying to keep you focused on this  
10 point. So, what I'm trying to ask you is,  
11 you're transporting during the day, a lot of  
12 days, but on some days you're in A Block the  
13 entire day.

14 MR. PALMER: Oh, that would be on the  
15 weekends.

16 [REDACTED] Yes, that's the point I just  
17 wanted to [crosstalk].

18 MR. PALMER: Now, yes, now on the weekends,  
19 everybody stays in the block and we have block  
20 rec. With all the Officers in the block, we'd  
21 stay in their block and the inmates would do  
22 their thing on the gallery, cooking, watch TV, -  
23 - , gamble, anything you can think of, they're  
24 probably doing it.

25 [REDACTED] So, it was just weekends or

1 whenever your RDO's are.

2 MR. PALMER: No, only on weekends.

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] On weekends, okay.

4 MR. PALMER: Yeah, because five days a week  
5 these guys have to go to work. They don't stay  
6 in--

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] Yeah, it's a  
8 prisoner's schedule.

9 MR. PALMER: Yep, and on the weekends we'd  
10 crack them out, we'd take them for rec less,  
11 yard less, and if they wanted to yard--now, real  
12 quick here, out of those two days, the Saturday  
13 and Sunday, depending on which day they had  
14 yard, I would take all the inmates of the A  
15 Block that wanted to go to the yard, and I would  
16 take them to the yard, and I would stay in the  
17 yard. And then, the other day we would have a  
18 cell clean, so they would stay locked down  
19 until--we'd bring them to chow, bring them back,  
20 lock them down, and then at 12:15 we'd let them  
21 out for block rec 'til 1:45. So, that's when  
22 we'd stay in the block and monitor, make rounds  
23 on the flats.

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I just didn't mean to interrupt,  
25 sorry about that.

1           [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No, actually, it brings up  
2 a point. When you bring them to work, okay, to  
3 the Tailor Shops, 1 through 8, right? 1 through  
4 8, or 1 through 9? Was that right? Was there a  
5 9 prior to renovations?

6           MR. PALMER: There is a 9, and at one time--

7           [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] There is a 9?

8           MR. PALMER: Oh, yes, 9 is right next to  
9 Tailor 1.

10          [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Right next to Tailor 1,  
11 okay, all right.

12          MR. PALMER: That's where this is coming up  
13 right here, how this took place. This is not  
14 the first time that this has taken place with  
15 Tailor 9, because it's a closed shop, and Tailor  
16 9 is right next to Tailor 1, and that has a  
17 whole bunch of machines in there that they store  
18 in there, sewing machines, they store those in  
19 there. So--

20          [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] Tailor 1 is  
21 where Joyce works, right? Joyce Mitchell?

22          MR. PALMER: Yes, now when I--I call her by  
23 the name Tilly, that was her nickname.

24          [REDACTED] [REDACTED] That's the nickname?

25          MR. PALMER: Yeah, that's how I addressed

1 her.

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Where'd that come from, do  
3 you know?

4 MR. PALMER: I don't know that. I don't  
5 know how she got that name.

6 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You gave her that name?

7 MR. PALMER: No, that's--

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] You just heard  
9 somebody call her--but, she just called you  
10 Vinny?

11 MR. PALMER: That's how they all addressed  
12 her there was Tilly, they didn't call her Ms.  
13 Mitchell. Nobody addressed her that, staff-  
14 wise. Maybe the convicts probably did.  
15 Because, her name says Mitchell on it.

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Let's say way back to what  
17 [REDACTED] was saying, as far as--you stated that--  
18 okay, now you have a Correction Officer in each  
19 shop, okay, once your relay of them, okay, your  
20 transfer of the prisoners, you basically  
21 transfer them over, in a sense, right?

22 MR. PALMER: Yes.

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Now, you go on a roving  
24 duty.

25 MR. PALMER: Correct.

1           [REDACTED]   Who and when, if ever, did  
2 cell inspections, okay, specifically A Block,  
3 okay, for what we're speaking about, take place?  
4 In other words, they're out of their cells, and  
5 that's a good--

6           [REDACTED]   [Interposing] Sorry, I was  
7 saying - - search.

8           [REDACTED]   Sometimes you need to cut me  
9 off. My wife tells me that all the time. But,  
10 wouldn't that be an ideal time, and is done some  
11 time in that period when they're out?

12           MR. PALMER: Well, what happens there in the  
13 morning, they'll come down with a random cell  
14 frisk. It's only one, and the Officer, the  
15 First Officer's notified what cell that will be  
16 frisked. A lot of the cells are empty, so  
17 that's when the Second Officer, that would be  
18 his duty, to search all the cells that are--one  
19 cell, one per day. Usually it's a random thing,  
20 I think it has to be that way for legalities,  
21 but also, you can--every once in awhile they'll  
22 come up from upstairs and say, yeah, we want  
23 this cell frisked also.

24           [REDACTED]   Let me ask you again, from  
25 my knowledge, because I've never done your

1 specific job, is there a--while you're roving-  
2 -is there a cursory or a visual search that's  
3 done when they're not in there?

4 MR. PALMER: Rounds would be made. Now, on  
5 the weekends we do--

6 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] Well, let's  
7 get the--

8 MR. PALMER: [Interposing] Okay.

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We'll just stick right,  
10 right where you left off with [REDACTED] okay? You  
11 drop them off at the Tailor Shops. Now, you go  
12 to rove. Is anybody--are you, or is anybody  
13 else, checking the cell block you're in charge  
14 of, cell block A?

15 MR. PALMER: They make rounds of the block  
16 but I don't go back to the block. I stick with  
17 the shops. They have their duties that they're  
18 supposed to make in the block, which would be  
19 the Second Officer.

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay, and who is 'they'?

21 MR. PALMER: Well, it would have been who  
22 has--

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] Who's in the  
24 box, the cage?

25 MR. PALMER: Yeah, the First Officer,



1       technically, stays in the cage, and the Second  
2       Officer does pretty much all the running around,  
3       or the laboring, he's--the Second Officer is the  
4       one that does the cell searches. See, we never  
5       did--I'm not--see, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
6       [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED],  
7       that doesn't take place, that's only Monday  
8       through Friday when that event takes place.  
9       And, that's done by the Second Officer.

10       [REDACTED] [REDACTED] But they make--are they  
11       required, like every hour or every two hours,  
12       to make rounds?

13       MR. PALMER: Yes. I don't know if they're  
14       required, but there'll be something in writing  
15       that says you have to make frequent rounds.  
16       There's a time table that they expect, a  
17       schedule.

18       [REDACTED] [REDACTED] To your knowledge, does that  
19       always happen, or does sometimes--

20       MR. PALMER: [Interposing] Not punctual.

21       [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay.

22       MR. PALMER: Depends on what's going on,  
23       because now you have a problem here, because we  
24       got Light, Heat & Power, they got to get down  
25       that catwalk, well that's going to cut into your

1 time on how many--it you're supposed to make a  
2 round--let's just say, an example--15 minutes.  
3 Not even that, let's say every 30 minutes you're  
4 supposed to make a round. Well, if you got a  
5 Light, Heat & Power guy down there, you got to  
6 stay with that guy, so therefore that eliminated  
7 that round. I don't know if they're mandatory.  
8 They're not mandatory, because--and then, if  
9 there's other issues that tie up that second  
10 man, that he can't perform those tasks, because  
11 the first man can't do that because he has to  
12 stay in that cage, that's how that works.

13 [REDACTED] Yeah, I got it. It's just -  
14 - budget. It's just a--and again, that's why  
15 you don't have computers doing it and it being  
16 monitored from one central location. You have  
17 the human interaction, you treat people like  
18 human beings, and you make it work.

19 MR. PALMER: Correct.

20 [REDACTED] That's why you and other  
21 Officers and other prisoners are in certain  
22 positions to make things work, okay? I would  
23 like to just go a little bit ahead and get back  
24 to Matt and Sweat, okay? How you first met  
25 them, and how would you judge--how would you

1 judge, and I'm sure, again, everybody's  
2 different, okay, everybody's life is  
3 categorized, whether you like it or not. We're  
4 human beings, that's what we do. That person's  
5 a 1, that person's a 2, that person's a 3, okay?  
6 I might be a 5, okay, or minus 5, whatever the  
7 case being. How would you judge them among  
8 everybody in A Block, as far as being--prior to  
9 what happened on the 6th, how would you judge  
10 them?

11 MR. PALMER: The other Officers?

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You and the other Officers,  
13 how were they looked upon, Sweat and Matt?

14 MR. PALMER: Sweat never talked to nobody,  
15 he was a quiet fella, he didn't--

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] Introverted,  
17 not really--

18 MR. PALMER: [Interposing] Yeah, he didn't  
19 come down for block rec, much. He didn't really  
20 go to the yard that often, either. He stayed in  
21 his cell quite often, quite often. Matt was  
22 more--he was more a smoother talker, is how he--  
23 he was a smooth talker, that fella.

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] More outgoing, yeah?

25 MR. PALMER: Yeah. Now, he didn't go to the

1 yard that often either, and he didn't go to  
2 block rec that often either, by the way, when we  
3 have gallery rec. Because, he would stay in his  
4 cell; both of them would stay in their cell  
5 upstairs. But, there were other men that did  
6 that too, not everybody did go to block rec.  
7 They just didn't, whatever reason, where they  
8 wanted stay by themselves, or however.

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And, how would you judge  
10 them, the other Officers now, how would you  
11 judge them?

12 MR. PALMER: The other Officers?

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You just described them.  
14 How would you judge your relationship with them?  
15 Were they somebody you always to watch your back  
16 around? Were they somebody--they were pretty  
17 friendly?

18 MR. PALMER: Yes, they were all friendly,  
19 yeah.

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We're talking about Sweat and  
21 Matt, not the other Officers.

22 MR. PALMER: Oh, how Sweat--

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [Interposing] Yeah, skip the  
24 other Officers. You, how would you judge them?  
25 How would you categorize them?

1 MR. PALMER: Sweat and Matt?

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Yeah, your relationship with  
3 them?

4 MR. PALMER: I talked to Matt quite often,  
5 quite often. But, he--yeah, he was--I talked to  
6 him quite often. I bet you I talked him every  
7 day, pretty much every day. He always had  
8 something to say.

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Did you basically become--  
10 because, obviously you're in control and all  
11 that, - - did you become basically the person he  
12 would go to?

13 MR. PALMER: Yes, yes. What had happened  
14 there was he would tell me stuff that was going  
15 on his shop. He'd always--not always--but, he  
16 would say, hey, this guy here is being an  
17 asshole in the shop and rah rah rah. So, when  
18 he would tell me things I would go and see  
19 Tilly, and I'd say, Tilly, I said, hey, you got  
20 a problem with this guy? Well, yes we do, or  
21 however she would come about it. So then,  
22 eventually over time when the guy--and, I'd talk  
23 to the Officer, said okay, here's, you know,  
24 whatever, if you see any misbehave--you know, on  
25 his actions, well write him up and we'll get him

1 out of the shop.

2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Can you provide sort of a  
3 timeline when he first came in, how your  
4 relationship developed over the years?

5 MR. PALMER: Well, when I first met him he  
6 had paintings. He had these paintings, and he  
7 would show me his paintings.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He brought them in with him?  
9 How'd he get them in?

10 MR. PALMER: Well, he'd paint them in his  
11 cell.

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He painted them in the cell.

13 MR. PALMER: Yeah, that's how he would do  
14 that. So, that's how--and, they were elaborate  
15 paintings, at that. Elaborate paintings. Then,  
16 over time, he'd offer, he goes hey, do you want  
17 a painting done? I'd get a painting done.

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Well, let me ask you about the  
19 paintings. So, when you first met him, was he  
20 in A Block?

21 MR. PALMER: Yes, he was.

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He was. So, he had the ability  
23 to paint there.

24 MR. PALMER: Yes, a hobby.

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I didn't mean to cut you off,

1       you so can [crosstalk].

2               MR. PALMER:   And then, so basically, pretty  
3 much, he would offer--hey, you got a--you need a  
4 painting done?   Blah blah blah.   So, I would  
5 have--eventually he did paintings for me.

6               [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   For you?   And, what type of  
7 paintings did he do for you?

8               MR. PALMER:   Portraits.

9               [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   Did you provide--how did you get  
10 a portrait--of who?   How'd you convey to him  
11 what portraits you wanted?

12              MR. PALMER:   Well, I would bring a picture  
13 in, and he just, you know, paint the picture.

14              [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   Who would he paint?   Who did you  
15 have pictures of that you have given to him over  
16 the years?

17              MR. PALMER:   Well, let's see here.   My  
18 mother, my grandmother, a couple baby pictures.

19              [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   Babies of--whose baby's  
20 pictures?

21              MR. PALMER:   [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]

22              [REDACTED]   [REDACTED]   Which ones, by name, if you  
23 recall?

24              MR. PALMER:   That would be--well, hold on,  
25 let me think of their names.   [REDACTED], and then I

1 think one of [REDACTED], and then a third baby, yeah,  
2 that would be--let me think of this here, let me  
3 think of the baby's name.

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You have a pretty good memory  
5 [crosstalk]. What's that?

6 MR. PALMER: [REDACTED].

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Okay. Any other pictures that  
8 you can think of? So, you brought in a picture  
9 of your mother?

10 MR. PALMER: And, my grandmother.

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Your grandmother, and baby  
12 pictures.

13 MR. PALMER: Yes, yes. There was probably  
14 more than that, but...

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Hm.

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] That's what you can recall?

17 MR. PALMER: Yes.

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And, he made portraits for you?

19 MR. PALMER: Yes, he made portraits.

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And, just describe them for us,  
21 the size.

22 MR. PALMER: The size of this right here,  
23 all of that.

24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] On painters' canvas?

25 MR. PALMER: Yes, yeah, yeah.



1           ████████████████ All on canvas?

2           MR. PALMER: Yes, yes.

3           ████████████████ Was it wood-backed, or would it  
4 be frame-backed? Was he able to get frames at  
5 the shops?

6           MR. PALMER: They may have--no, they would  
7 be wood-backed.

8           ████████████████ Wood-backed?

9           MR. PALMER: Yeah, yeah. Not wood-backed,  
10 but pressed.

11          ████████████████ Do you remember the first  
12 painting he did for you?

13          MR. PALMER: Well, I'd have to say maybe my  
14 grandmother or my mother, maybe that's--

15          ████████████████ [Interposing] One of those two?

16          MR. PALMER: Yeah.

17          ████████████████ And, do you remember what year  
18 that might have been?

19          MR. PALMER: Might have been the second  
20 year. I'm not too good on my dates.

21          ████████████████ Just on or about.

22          MR. PALMER: About the second year I was in  
23 the block, maybe--yeah, maybe the second year,  
24 I'm not accurate with that.

25          ████████████████ Okay.

[END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

The prior proceedings were transcribed from audio files and have been transcribed to the best of my ability. I further certify that I am not connected by blood, marriage or employment with any of the parties herein nor interested directly or indirectly in the matter transcribed.

Signature



Date 7/22/2015